

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 OES-07
PM-05 /048 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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DEPT PASS DOT FOR RAMUNDO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, ETRN, OTRA, UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT - CIVIL
AVIATION AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL DELEGATION (05.0402)

REF: (A) MOSCOW 10637,(B) STATE 138265

1. SUMMARY. US AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL DELEGATION WHICH VISITED THE USSR JUNE 17 TO 28 REPORTED THAT SOVIETS FOR THE FIRST TIME PERMITTED US ACCESS TO OPERATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER. WHILE LITTLE OF TECHNICAL VALUE WAS GAINED DURING THE VISIT, DELEGATION REPORTED THEIR VISIT CEMENTED ORGANIZATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LINKS WITH SOVIET COUNTERPARTS AND OPENED DOOR TO SOVIET CIVIL AVIATION A LITTLE WIDER. END SUMMARY.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF VISIT WERE TRIP TO CIVIL AVIATION INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING, WHICH PREPARES ENGINEERS FOR CIVIL AVIATION CAREERS, AND TO OPERATIONAL AIR CONTROL TOWER AND METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE AT BORISPOL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN KIEV. (DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT ACCESS TO AN ATC TOWER WAS SUBJECT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO SOVIETS AND A SINE QUA NON OF FURTHER COOPERATION IN THIS AREA.)

3. VISIT PERMITTED OBSERVATION OF WORKING POSITIONS OF TAXI, LANDING, ZONE APPROACHES AND CONTROLLERS CLEARANCE DELIVERY (ADC). USDEL FELT SOVIET TECHNOLOGY IN THIS AREA WAS CRUDE BY US STANDARDS, BUT WAS IMPRESSED BY

SOVIET DESIRE TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE WITHIN CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY THEIR PERCEIVED SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

4. WORKING SESSIONS WITH MINCIVAIR OFFICIALS INCLUDED DISCUSSION OF AND EXPRESSIONS OF CONTINUED SOVIET INTEREST IN DISCRETE ADDRESS BEACON SYSTEM, AND SECONDARY SURVEILLANCE RADAR (SSR); OMEGA DATA COLLECTION PROJECT; CONTROLLER PRODUCTIVITY; AND AVIATION WEATHER. IN ADDITION, SOVIETS PRESENTED SLIDE LECTURE ON NEW LASER DIRECTED LANDING SYSTEM (GLISSADA) FOR WHICH USSR HAS RECENTLY OBTAINED US PATENT.

5. GLISSADA. SOVIET PRESENTATION ON GLISSADA LEFT MAJOR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS UNANSWERED AND SUGGESTED THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEMS REMAIN BEFORE SYSTEM IS INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE. SOVIET EXPLANATION OF LANDING PROCEDURES AVOIDED PRECISE DEFINITION OF EFFECTIVE RANGE OF NEW SYSTEM AND NEED FOR VISUAL REFERENCES. SOVIETS ALSO EVADED QUESTION OF EYE DAMAGE TO PILOT FROM LASERS. US DEL FOUND LITTLE GROUNDS FOR EXTRAVAGANT CLAIMS BEING MADE FOR NEW SYSTEM IN THE MEDIA, AND SOVIET SIDE ADMITTED TESTING NOT YET CONCLUDED.

6. US DEL AFFIRMED THAT TRANSPORTATION COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN CIVIL AVIATION WAS IMPORTANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

-- SECURING SOVIET SUPPORT FOR US POSITIONS IN THE ICAO AND OTHER MULTILATERAL FORA;

-- ENSURING USSR COOPERATION ON DABS STANDARDIZATION;

-- EXCHANGING TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON ADVANCED WEATHER SYSTEM (KRAMS);

-- ARRANGING FOR SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN OMEGA DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM TO COVER AREAS NOT SERVED BY US CARRIERS;

-- OBTAINING TIMELY AND MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON NEW, PUBLICIZED SOVIET ATC SYSTEMS, SUCH AS GLISSADA;

-- LEARNING ABOUT SOVIET PLANS FOR SATELLITES SYSTEMS RELATED TO ATC, SUCH AS THE VOLNYA.

7. COMMENT: US DEL EXPERIENCE CONFIRMED THE USEFULNESS OF EXCHANGES IN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AREA MAINLY FOR

THE INSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE RELATIONSHIPS
ENGENDERED. WHILE USSR HAS RELATIVELY LITTLE IN THE
WAY OF TECHNICAL INNOVATION TO OFFER, EXCHANGES OF
INFORMATION ON ONGOING PROJECTS, POSSIBILITIES FOR
US COMMERCIAL SALES OF ATC EQUIPMENT, AND SOVIET SUPPORT
FOR US POSITIONS IN ICAO (I.E., ON DABS) ARE IMPORTANT
TO FULFILLMENT OF US CIVIL AVIATION PROGRAMS AND
OBJECTIVES.

8. MINCIVAIR MADE A POINT OF ITS DESIRE TO CONTINUE
TRANSPORTATION COOPERATION WITH US DESPITE OBSTACLES.

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WG CHAIRMAN ANODINA ANNOUNCED SHE HAD SPOKEN TO MINCIVAIR
AND HE SUPPORTED COOP EFFORTS. SHE THEN MADE SOME
CRYPTIC REMARKS ABOUT "SOME OF OUR PROGRAMS HAVE NOT
BEEN OBJECTIVELY EVALUATED" AND OPPOSITION TO CLOSE
US-USSR CIVIL AVIATION COOPERATION EXISTS ON BOTH SIDES,
BUT HOPED HER US GUESTS WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THOSE AT
MINISTRY WERE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN WORKING TOGETHER.
US SIDE HAD IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS WERE TRYING
TO AVOID CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. NEVERTHELESS, US WILL HAVE
TO CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR EQUALITY OF ACCESS, AND TO
REMIND SOVIETS (AS THEY HAVE DONE IN LATEST PROTOCOL)
OF LONG-STANDING REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO REGIONAL AIR
CONTROL CENTER. TOON

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